

2008 – 2009 Influenza Vaccination Coverage among HealthCare Personnel (HCP) in IHS, Tribal and Urban Indian Facilities

One Healthy People 2010 goal is to achieve 60% influenza vaccination coverage among healthcare personnel (HCP); in 2007, coverage for HCP nationally was less than 50%. In 2008 – 2009, the Department of Health and Human Services announced an initiative to improve influenza vaccination coverage among healthcare personnel. As part of this initiative, they requested that all HHS agencies develop a mechanism to track and report on HCP influenza vaccination coverage within their agencies.

IHS launched its effort with an Open Door Forum on October 25th, 2008 which included speakers on influenza transmission, influenza vaccination, employee health records, and strategies for vaccinating HCP. Each IHS Area was asked to designate a person to serve as the coordinator for this initiative, and to disseminate information to and receive reports from the facilities and aggregate them into an Area level report. Participation by IHS facilities was required; tribal and urban programs were also invited to participate. The definition of HCP included **all** personnel who work in a health care facility – meaning personnel with direct patient contact as well as housekeeping, food service workers, data entry clerks, administrators, etc. Educational PowerPoint presentations on the importance of HCP flu vaccination were developed for clinical and non-clinical HCP, as well as for facility administrators. These presentations, as well as guidance on tracking HCP flu coverage and reporting forms for the Area coordinators and individual facilities, were broadly disseminated throughout IHS and were also posted on the IHS website.

A follow up survey on methods for tracking and strategies used to promote HCP flu vaccination was disseminated to all sites using Survey Monkey.

HCP Influenza Vaccination Coverage Results:

All 12 IHS Areas submitted reports, representing 137 facilities and 23,413 HCP. A breakdown of coverage by facility type is included below, as well as % refusals (which included those with medical contraindications), and the % for whom vaccination status was unknown.

Table 1” Healthcare Personnel Influenza Vaccine Coverage by Facility Type

	Number of facilities	Number of HCP	% Vaccinated	% Refused	% Unknown
IHS Facilities	72	12,675	74.5%	9.9%	15.6%
Tribal Facilities	53	10,068	69.6%	10.4%	19.9%
Urban Facilities	12	670	43.5%	18.6%	37.7%
All Facilities	137	23,413	71.5%	10.3%	18.1%

While IHS as an agency surpassed the HP 2010 goal of 60%, coverage varied between IHS Areas. Coverage for ALL facilities (IHS, Tribal and Urban) by IHS Area is shown below.

2008 - 2009 Influenza Vaccination Coverage of HCP IHS, Tribal, and Urban Facilities

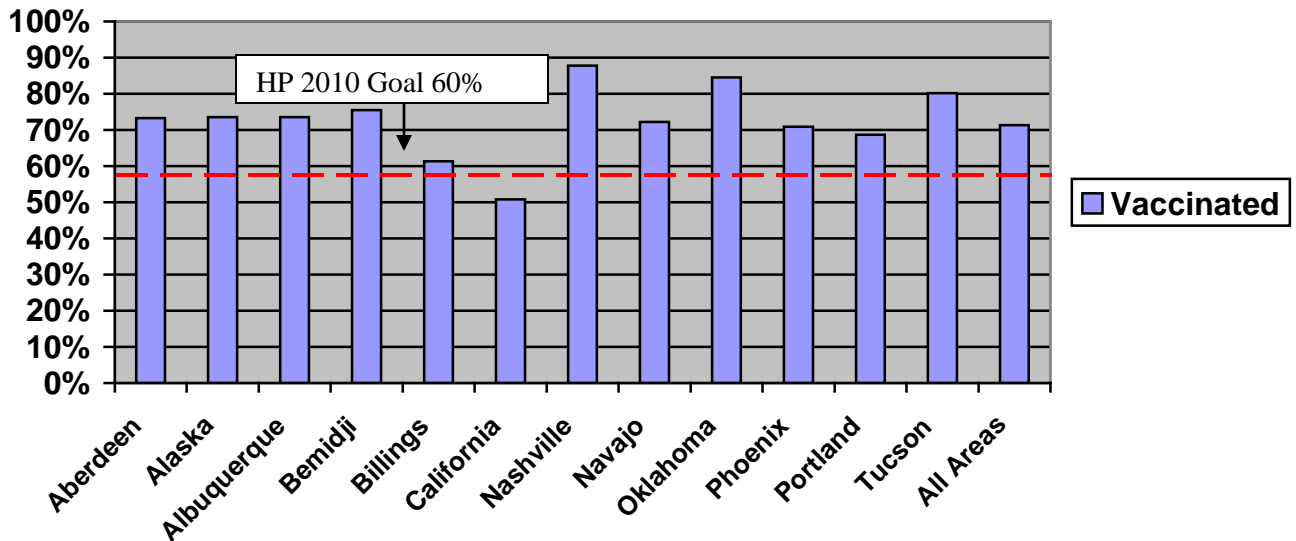


Table 2: Healthcare Personnel Vaccination Coverage by Area

	Number Facilities	Number HCP	% Vaccinated	% Refused	% Unknown
Aberdeen	13	1866	75.2%	12.6%	12.1%
Alaska	13	5555	73.5%	6.7%	19.7%
Albuquerque	12	1004	73.5%	9.4%	17.0%
Bemidji	15	1109	75.4%	15.9%	8.5%
Billings	6	911	61.3%	11.4%	27.2%
California	28	1726	50.8%	20.3%	29.2%
Nashville	2	49	87.7%	12.2%	0.00%
Navajo	11	4953	72.2%	9.2%	18.4%
Oklahoma	14	1367	84.1%	12.8%	3.0%
Phoenix	10	3500	70.8%	8.5%	20.5%
Portland	10	939	68.6%	13.5%	17.7%
Tucson	3	434	80.1%	5.3%	14.5%
All Areas	137	23,413	71.3%	10.3%	18.3%

Survey Results

One hundred and thirteen facilities responded to the survey. Of those, 80% indicated that they had targeted the initiative to ALL personnel working in their facilities; 19% said they targeted providers or personnel with direct patient contact. Fifty nine percent indicated that they had tracked HCP flu vaccination coverage rates prior to this initiative. Methods for tracking coverage included use of the RPMS or other electronic medical record (EMR) system (35%), use of a database (4%), and manual tallies (54%). Five percent of sites indicated they had used a combination of RPMS /EMR and hand tallies. Seventy-three percent stated that they used the resources that were available on the IHS website.

107 facilities provided information on the strategies they used. The majority of sites (60%) used multiple strategies. Table 3 below includes a list of the strategies and the proportion of facilities that stated they had used these strategies.

Table 3: Strategies Used to Promote HCP Influenza Vaccination

	% of facilities reporting use of this strategy
On-Site Flu Clinics	70%
Educational Presentations to staff	38%
Declination Forms	35%
Mobile Vaccination Carts	22%
Individual follow up with staff	14%
Information/Reminders via Email	8%
Feedback of coverage rates - Friendly competition between departments	6%
Provide flu information and/or flu shots at staff meetings	4%
Combined flu shots with other wellness activities	3%
Incentives	2%
Posted information around the facility	2%

Conclusion:

As an agency, IHS has surpassed the HP 2010 goal for HCP influenza vaccination, and has established a baseline HCP influenza coverage of 71% for all facility types. There is, however, variation between Areas and facility type; efforts to identify and disseminate best practices and to improve overall data collection are important next steps.

Next Steps

- Update IHS Employee Manual Immunization Policy
- Develop goals for next flu season
 - Increase # of facilities reporting
 - Improve on % unknown
- Discuss data collection for next year
 - Break out refusals into medical contraindications vs. refusals